1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

7th. Sea calves' puppying time.
8th. Time when the tame deer bring forth their young.
9th. When the wild deer bring forth.
10th. Beginning of the fiſhery.

Their diviſion of time is pretty ſingular; they commonly divide our year into two, ſo that winter is one year, and ſummer another: the ſummer year begins in *May*, and the winter in *November*.

They do not diſtinguiſh the days by any particular appellation, nor form them into weeks or months, nor yet know how many days are in the month or year. They mark their epochs by ſome remarkable thing or other, ſuch as the arrival of the *Ruſſians*, the great rebellion, or the firſt expedition to *Kamtſchatka*. They have no writings, nor hieroglyphick figures, to preſerve the memory of any thing; ſo that all their knowledge depends upon tradition, which ſoon becomes uncertain and fabulous in regard to what is long paſt.

They are ignorant of the cauſes of eclipſes, but when they happen, they carry fire out of their huts, and pray the luminary eclipſed to ſhine as formerly. They know only three conſtellations; the Great Bear, the Pleiades, and the three ſtars in Orion; and give names only to the principal winds.

Their laws in general tend to give ſatisfaction to the injured perſon. If any one kills another, he is to be killed by the relations of the perſon ſlain. They burn the hands of people who have been frequently caught in theft, but for the firſt offence the thief muſt reſtore what he hath ſtolen, and live alone in ſolitude, without expecting any aſſiſtance from others. They think they can puniſh an undiſcovered theft by burning the ſinews of the ſtone-buck in a publick meeting with great ceremonies of conjuration, believing that as theſe ſinews are contracted by the fire ſo the thief will have all his

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

586 R 177 .58 cures them no particular priviledge. Their motive is obvious. By frequent marriages, it is poſſible that before the end of the preſent generation, the race of the indigenes may be totally extinct.

681 R 177 .68 The penalty of death, aboliſhed in all the dominions of the empreſs, is never inflicted in Kamtſchatka. In their earlieſt migrations, the Ruſſians, when accuſed of haraſſing the natives, were condemned to the knowt; the Kamtſchadales alſo, for various offences, were liable to this cruel puniſhment; but it is no longer practiced. When the natives are guilty either of petty or capital offences, the puniſhment is whipping. It may be queſtioned whether they have gained by the change. The preſent mode of puniſhing them being more ſimple and expeditious, it is reſorted to with leſs ſcruple, and is liable to frequent abuſe.